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Serial No. 09/754,891

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A computer program product for automated e-business services, the computer program product embodied on one or more computer-readable media of a first computing system and comprising:

computer-readable program code ~~means~~ configured for reading a specification of an e-business service; and

computer-readable program code ~~means~~ configured for processing the specification to carry out the e-business service, further comprising:

computer-readable program code ~~means~~ configured for receiving at least one or more input documents document for the e-business service; and

computer-readable program code ~~means~~ configured for performing at least one or more of: (1) transforming the input documents into other documents, according to transformation information that may be provided in the specification, and (2) operating upon the input documents ~~and/or~~ or the other documents to create one or more new documents, according to operating actions that may be provided in the specification.

2. (Currently amended) The computer program product according to Claim 1, further comprising computer-readable program code ~~means~~ configured for forwarding the other documents ~~and/or~~ or the new documents to a computing system other than the first computing system.

3. (Original) The computer program product according to Claim 1, wherein the specification and the input documents are encoded in a structured markup language.

4. (Original) The computer program product according to Claim 1, wherein the other documents and the new documents are encoded in a structured markup language.

5. (Currently amended) The computer program product according to Claim 3 ~~or Claim 4~~, wherein the structured markup language is a language known as "the Extensible Markup

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Language (XML)” or a derivative thereof.

6. (Currently amended) The computer program product according to Claim 1, wherein the computer-readable program code means configured for operating upon the input documents ~~and/or~~ or the other documents further comprises:

computer-readable program code ~~means configured~~ for invoking one or more software-implemented processes; and

computer-readable program code ~~means configured~~ for coordinating results of the invocations.

7. (Currently amended) The computer program product according to Claim 6, further comprising computer-readable program code means configured for repetitively executing the computer-readable program code means configured for processing, until reaching a final result of the e-business service, wherein the other documents, the new documents, ~~and/or~~ or the coordinated results of the invocations now function as the input documents.

8. (Currently amended) A system for automated e-business services, comprising:  
means for reading a specification of an e-business service; and  
means for processing the specification to carry out the e-business service, further comprising:

means for receiving at least one ~~or more~~ input documents document for the e-business service; and

means for performing at least one ~~or more~~ of: (1) transforming the input documents into other documents, according to transformation information that may be provided in the specification, and (2) operating upon the input documents ~~and/or~~ or the other documents to create at least one ~~or more~~ new documents document, according to operating actions that may be provided in the specification.

9. (Currently amended) The system according to Claim 8, further comprising means for

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forwarding the other documents ~~and/or~~ or the new documents to a computing system other than the first computing system.

10. (Original) The system according to Claim 8, wherein the specification and the input documents are encoded in a structured markup language.

11. (Original) The system according to Claim 8, wherein the other documents and the new documents are encoded in a structured markup language.

12. (Currently amended) The system according to Claim 10 ~~or Claim 11~~, wherein the structured markup language is a language known as "the Extensible Markup Language (XML)" or a derivative thereof.

13. (Currently amended) The system according to Claim 8, wherein the means for operating upon the input documents ~~and/or~~ or the other documents further comprises:  
means for invoking at least one or more software-implemented ~~processes~~ process; and  
means for coordinating results of the invocations.

14. (Currently amended) The system according to Claim 13, further comprising means for repetitively executing the means for processing, until reaching a final result of the e-business service, wherein the other documents, the new documents, ~~and/or~~ or the coordinated results of the invocations now function as the input documents.

15. (Currently amended) A method ~~performed by one or more computers for automated e-business services~~, comprising ~~steps of~~:  
reading a specification of an e-business service; and  
processing the specification to carry out the e-business service, further comprising ~~steps of~~:  
receiving at least one or more input documents document for the e-business

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service; and

performing at least one or more of: (1) transforming the input documents into other documents, according to transformation information that may be provided in the specification, and (2) operating upon the input documents ~~and/or~~ or the other documents to create at least one or more new documents document, according to operating actions that may be provided in the specification.

16. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 15, further comprising ~~the step of~~ forwarding the other documents ~~and/or~~ or the new documents to a computing system other than the first computing system.

17. (Original) The method according to Claim 15, wherein the specification and the input documents are encoded in a structured markup language.

18. (Original) The method according to Claim 15, wherein the other documents and the new documents are encoded in a structured markup language.

19. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 17 ~~or Claim 18~~, wherein the structured markup language is a language known as "the Extensible Markup Language (XML)" or a derivative thereof.

20. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 15, wherein ~~the step of~~ operating upon the input documents ~~and/or~~ or the other documents further comprises ~~steps of~~:  
invoking at least one or more software-implemented ~~processes~~ process; and  
coordinating results of the invocations.

21. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 20, further comprising ~~the step of~~ repetitively executing processing the specification to carry out the e-business service ~~the processing step~~, until reaching a final result of the e-business service, wherein the other

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documents, the new documents, ~~and/or~~ or the coordinated results of the invocations now function as the input documents.

22. (Currently amended) A method of conducting business by using automated e-business services, comprising ~~steps of~~:

reading a specification of an e-business service; and

processing the specification to carry out the e-business service, further comprising ~~steps~~

~~of~~:

receiving at least one ~~or more~~ input documents ~~document~~ for the e-business service; and

performing at least one ~~or more~~ of: (1) transforming the input documents into other documents, according to transformation information that may be provided in the specification, and (2) operating upon the input documents ~~and/or~~ or the other documents to create at least one ~~or more~~ new documents ~~document~~, according to operating actions that may be provided in the specification.

23. (Currently amended) A method of defining e-business process and data interactions, further comprising ~~steps of~~:

defining data inputs to be used by an e-business service;

defining interactions to be carried out when operating the e-business service;

specifying details of the data inputs in a structured markup language syntax;

specifying details of the interactions in the structured markup language syntax; and

creating at least one ~~or more~~ e-business service definition documents ~~document~~ separate from at least one input document containing the data inputs wherein the specified details of the data inputs and the specified details of the interactions are recorded in the at least one e-business service definition document.

24. (Original) The method according to Claim 23, wherein the structured markup language is a language known as "the Extensible Markup Language (XML)" or a derivative thereof.

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25. (Currently amended) A method of defining process and data interactions for an application described by a finite state machine, ~~further comprising steps of:~~  
defining data inputs to be used by the application;  
defining interactions to be carried out when operating the application;  
specifying details of the data inputs in a structured markup language syntax;  
specifying details of the interactions in the structured markup language syntax; and  
creating at least one or more application definition documents document separate from at least one input document containing the data inputs wherein the specified details of the data inputs and the specified details of the interactions are recorded in the at least one application definition document.

26. (Original) The method according to Claim 25, wherein the structured markup language is a language known as "the Extensible Markup Language (XML)" or a derivative thereof.

27. (Currently amended) A method ~~performed by one or more computers~~ for automating data and process interactions between a first application and one or more other applications, comprising ~~steps of:~~  
providing at least one or more application definition documents document encoded in a structured markup language, wherein the application definition documents specify the interactions and at least one or more data inputs input to be used in the interactions, and wherein details of the specified interactions and data inputs are specified in the structured markup language; and  
processing the application definition documents to carry out the data and process interactions in response to receiving at least one separate input document containing the at least one data input.

28. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 27, wherein ~~the step of processing the application definition documents further comprises steps of:~~

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receiving at least one or more input documents document to be used by the interactions;  
and

performing at least one or more of: (1) transforming the input documents into other documents, according to transformation information that may be provided in the application definition documents, and (2) operating upon the input documents and/or or the other documents to create at least one or more new documents document, according to operating actions that may be provided in the application definition documents.

29. (Deleted)

30. (Original) The method according to Claim 27, wherein the structured markup language is a language known as "the Extensible Markup Language (XML)" or a derivative thereof.